

of acanthus-leaves, surmounted at each corner by the stems forming small twirls, you will find many examples everywhere. In London I may mention the portico of the National Gallery and that of the Royal Exchange.

The Composite order consists of a mixture of the Corinthian and the Ionic, as you may see by Fig. 21. In the place of the smaller twirls of the plant in the Corinthian, an Ionic capital is set up on the acanthus leaves. The frieze is ornamented, and the whole order made richer.

It has been well said that what Roman architecture lost in simplicity it gained in magnificence: the mouldings were sculptured, the frieze adorned with scrolls.

I may remark that the climate of Rome led to the use of roofs more steep than in Greece, and thus produced pediments of steeper pitch. The Romans, tasteless as they were in some respects, did not attempt, as men of modern times have done, to retain forms irrespective of the circumstances and wants which gave them birth.

Another peculiarity which you must have observed in the buildings of ancient Rome is the use of a pedestal beneath columns,—so called, probably, from *pes*, a foot, and the Greek for column, *stulos*. This I must always regard as a sacrifice of dignity and grandeur to expediency. One advantage that the pedestal gives, you will observe, is, that columns of smaller diameter, less obstructive, may be employed; and for internal arrangements it offers other conveniences. *Après* of the derivation: on one occasion Madame de Staël, who was not remarkable for pretty feet, personated a statue, with the face concealed, and an ill-natured joker, when asked if he could guess who it was, glanced at the block on which she stood and said, "Oui; oui: je vois le pied-de-Staël."

I will not speak of the use made of single columns by the Romans to commemorate individuals, further than to say that those which prevent the peculiarity of having three ships' beaks or prows protruding from each side are called, from that circumstance, "Rostrated columns" (*rostra* signifying beaks), and referred to naval actions. You probably saw the well-known example at Rome, formerly in the Forum, and now preserved in the Museum of the Capitol. You perhaps scarcely see any connection between the heads of ships and the auctioneer's *rostrum* of to-day; but the fact is, the elevated stage in the Forum whence the people were addressed (the *Rostrum*) got the name for it through being adorned with the beaks of ships taken in the Great Latin war. It is interesting, I think, to trace derivations, and to find connections in things now apparently remote.

I must not attempt to describe all the works of the Romans; this would be aside my purpose. Where are the majority of them? Of the circuses, the aqueducts, the amphitheatres, the baths, the villas, which they raised, how few remain! As Pope writes to Addison:—

"Some felt the silent stroke of mould'ring age,
Some hostile fury, some religious rage,
Barbarian blindness, Christian zeal conspire,
And Papal piety, and Gothic fire."

A word about their homes. The ordinary domestic architecture of the ancient Romans has scarcely the same claim on our attention as that exhibited in their public buildings, although, during the later times of the Republic, residences of enormous extent and cost were erected. The buried cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum afford us examples of street architecture exactly as they were left by their occupiers in the year 79, when one, namely Herculaneum, was, as you know, overwhelmed by the lava from Vesuvius, and the other by showers of cinders and stones, which, although they broke down or burnt the roofs and upper stories, embalmed, so to speak, the whole city (a fly in amber), as if purposely to preserve it for the study of modern nations.

The existence of Pompeii, beneath fields of waving corn and plantations of the vine, was unthought of till the end of the seventeenth century, and it was not until the middle of the eighteenth that the excavations were begun. About a quarter of the city has now been investigated, comprising (besides numerous specimens of the arrangement of Roman houses) temples, two theatres, basilicæ, baths, and a forum. When you visited this now silent remnant of the past, did you notice the ruts which were formed in the narrow roads by the equipages of luxury, or the vehicles of commerce; the builders' materials as they were left by the workmen to go to their repast; the burlesque scrawlings on a wall made nearly 1800 years ago, by idle soldiers? Must of the shops, you must have observed, are very small and inconvenient, without chimneys and windows. The staircases, where they existed, were confined and rude. The walls of the houses, however, were adorned with paintings elegantly executed, and all the utensils which have been discovered display taste superior to that which is exhibited in the dwellings themselves.

The principal feature in the houses of the better classes was the *Atrium*, a large rectangular apartment, roofed over, with the exception of an opening in the ceiling, towards which the roof sloped so as to throw the rain water into a cistern in the floor, called *impluvium*. The *Atrium* was often adorned with columns, statues, and other works of art, and it served as a reception room. In early times it was the sitting room, and even the kitchen. Around it and beyond it were the various apartments, including often a picture gallery. The entrance-hall, which connected the *Atrium* with the street, was paved with mosaics, and there were often artificial gardens on the tops of the houses. The rooms were sometimes heated by hot air, conveyed through pipes from a furnace, but often by portable braziers. Architecture in Rome, after it had attained its perfection in the Augustan age, gradually declined. Simplicity was lost sight of, luxuriance became wildness, and wise liberality degenerated into unrestrained and ineffective extravagance. At the commencement of the fourth century of the Christian era, Rome, weakened by internal disunion, and attacked on all sides by barbaric tribes, tottered. The last blow to her prosperity was given when Constantine removed the seat of government to Byzantium, afterwards called from him Constantinople.

At this point terminates the history of classic architecture, and we enter upon that of a perfectly distinct style, which may be called CHRISTIAN architecture; growing out of that which preceded it, and ultimately developing itself, after a variety of gradual improvements and changes, in the cathedrals of Cologne, Strasburg, Salisbury, York, and Lincoln.

"Children that came to see these Saints in stone,
As day by day out of the blocks they rose,
Grew old and died, and still the work went on,
And on, and on, and is not yet completed.
The generation that succeeds our own
Perhaps may finish it. The architect
Built his great heart into these sculptured stones,
And with him toiled his children, and their lives
Were builded with his own into the walls.
As offerings unto God."

And so, having reached a convenient stopping-place, farewell for the present, and prepare for a journey over an entirely fresh road when we next meet.

Believe me, always yours,

Reggio.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH IN THE BANK OF ENGLAND.—The electric telegraph operations which have for some time been in progress in this establishment are now completed, and a system of communication is effected between the various offices. The rooms of the governor and deputy-governor are by this means placed in direct communication with every important department where business is transacted, and secrecy of communication is obtained by the use of Dering's patent apparatus for this purpose, so that a message intended for one particular office cannot be read at any of the others.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

Newcastle.—The public baths and wash-houses erected here at the cost of the corporation, from a design by Mr. Lynam, of Stoke-upon-Trent, architect, have been opened. The building, which is situated in School-street, is of red bricks, chequered with blue patterns, and has stone plinths and dressings; the gables are also coped with stone, and terminate with finials. The stone was obtained from a quarry in the immediate vicinity, belonging to the Duke of Suiberland. The roof is covered with party-coloured tiles. The entrance to the division of either sex has a stone portico, with rusticated columns and antæ, and moulded entablature, surmounted by a carved shield. The façade is Elizabethan. Within are entrances leading to waiting rooms and attendants' room, and by corridors to the private baths, six in number, for either sex; also a vapour and shower bath to each division. Open vestibules lead from the corridors to two swimming baths, one being inclosed and lighted from the roof and side walls, but the other open. These baths are of uniform size, ten yards long by six wide, and with inclined bottoms, 3½ feet deep at the upper end, and 4½ at the lower. The private baths and inclosed swimming bath are supplied with hot and cold water. There are two rooms fitted up for washing and drying clothes, with four wash-tubs, and heated steam drying apparatus. The buildings were erected, under the superintendence of the architect, by Mr. Robert Chapman. Since the opening, according to our authority, the *Staffordshire Advertiser*, the baths have been extensively patronised, especially the plunge baths.

Lancashire.—We regret that an amicable settlement of the brickmakers' dispute has not yet been effected. The men, we understand, have offered to return to their work at the prices heretofore paid, on condition that they be not required to make bricks larger than 160 cubic inches in the mould. This proposition, however, has not been acceded to. Some of the master brickmakers have obtained a number of new hands from St. Helena, Liverpool, and the Fylde. — *Preston Guardian*.

New Radford.—The schools in connection with Christ Church, New Radford, were opened on Monday week, according to the *Nottinghamshire Guardian*. They consist of a master's residence, an infant school, and a class-room, as well as a large upper room, separated by a sliding partition, and capable of accommodating a large number of children. About 1,000£ appears to have been the cost of these schools.

Neithrop.—The Vicar of Banbury is about to erect a chapel here. The excavations for the foundation are in progress.

Plymouth.—The contractors for the works connected with the Great Western Docks at Millbay (Messrs. Hutcheson and Ritson) are about to recommence them.

Rodington.—The old parish church having been restored and enlarged was re-opened on 9th ult. The alterations mainly consist of the addition of a chancel, terminating in an apse in the Early English style, with a new north aisle containing about 100 additional sittings. The church is entered on the south side by an open-timbered porch, the west front being surmounted by a campanile of same character. The ancient font has been restored to use. The unsightly pews have been removed, and open sittings substituted. The churchyard has been levelled and surrounded by a brick wall.

Shenstone.—The foundation-stone of the new Church of St. John the Baptist, at Shenstone, near Lichfield, was laid on Thursday week, by Mr. J. S. Manley, and at same time the foundation-stone of a chapel intended to form part of the church, and dedicated in honour of St. Peter, was laid by the Hon. Mrs. Jervis. The edifice will consist of a nave eighty-six feet by twenty, north and south aisle seventy-four feet by twelve, tower, and organ chapel. It will be built in the style of the fourteenth century, and of stone, the gift of the Hon. F. Gough. It will be calculated to accommodate (say) persons, 150 free.

Ripon.—Mr. Waiers, of Newcastle, has received an order for a magnificent window for